1   41182/JEC/P396

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   In a communication network including a user station,
5   a method for creating a customized audio program comprising the
steps of:

processing audio signals of an audio piece for compiling
audio characteristic information including acoustic information
associated with the audio piece;

receiving user audio preference information;

comparing the user audio preference information with the
audio characteristic information; and

selecting the audio piece based on the comparison for
including into the customized audio program.

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2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the audio
characteristic information indicates subject matter content of
the associated audio piece.

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3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the audio piece
includes music.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the audio piece
25   includes voice.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the audio piece
includes an advertisement.

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6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the user audio
preference information is associated with a particular theme,
the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a user selection for the particular theme; and

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identifying the user preference information associated with the particular theme.

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7.   The method of claim 1 further comprising downloading the selected audio piece into memory.

8.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the audio piece and the audio characteristic information to the user station.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the step of transmitting comprises the step of transmitting the audio piece and the audio characteristic information over a broadcast network.

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10.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the selected audio piece to the user station.

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11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the selected audio piece over a computer network.

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12.   In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising the steps of:

receiving user audio preference information;

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receiving audio characteristic information associated with a plurality of audio pieces, the plurality of audio pieces being broadcast to the user station over one or more broadcast

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channels, the audio characteristic information including acoustic information;

comparing the user audio preference information with the audio characteristic information;

identifying a particular audio piece based on the comparison;

receiving the particular audio piece over one of the broadcast channels; and

storing the received audio piece in memory.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content of the associated audio piece.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include music.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include voice.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include advertisements.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a user selection for the particular theme; and

identifying the user audio preference information associated with the particular theme.

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18. In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising the

5   steps of:

receiving a plurality of audio pieces from one or more audio sources;

storing the received plurality of audio pieces in a first database;

processing audio signals of an audio piece in the first database for compiling audio characteristic information including acoustic information associated with the audio piece;

storing the audio characteristic information in a second

15   database;

receiving user audio preference information;

comparing the user audio preference information with the audio characteristic information;

selecting the audio piece based on the comparison; and

20   transmitting the selected audio piece to a user station over a computer network.

19. The   method   of   claim   18,   wherein   the   audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content of

25   the associated audio piece.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the audio piece includes music.

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21. The method of claim 18, wherein the audio piece includes voice.

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22. The method of claim 18, wherein the audio piece includes an advertisement.

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23. The method of claim 18, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a user selection for the particular theme; and

identifying the user preference information associated with the particular theme.

24. A system for creating a customized audio program comprising:

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a first processor processing audio signals of an audio piece for compiling audio characteristic information including acoustic information associated with the audio piece;

a first input receiving user audio preference information;

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a second processor coupled to the first input for comparing the user audio preference information with the audio characteristic information and selecting the audio piece for including into the customized audio program based on the

25 comparison.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content of the associated audio piece.

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26. The system of claim 24, wherein the audio piece includes music.

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27.   The system of claim 24, wherein the audio piece includes voice.

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28.   The system of claim 24, wherein the audio piece includes an advertisement.

29.   The system of claim 24, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the system further comprising a third input at the user station for receiving a user selection for the particular theme.

15   30.   The system of claim 24 further comprising a memory at the user station for storing the selected audio piece.

31.   The system of claim 24 further comprising a transmitter coupled to the first processor for transmitting the
20   audio piece and the audio characteristic information to a user station.

32.   The system of claim 31, wherein the transmitter transmits the audio piece and the audio characteristic
25   information over a broadcast network.

33.   The system of claim 24 further comprising a network connection for transmitting the selected audio piece to a user station over a computer network.
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34.   A system for creating a customized audio program comprising:

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a first input for receiving user audio preference information;

a second input for receiving audio characteristic information associated with an audio piece, the audio characteristic information including acoustic information;

a processor coupled to the first input and the second input, the processor comparing the user audio preference information with the audio characteristic information and selecting a particular audio piece based on the comparison;

a tuner coupled to the processor for tuning to a channel carrying the audio piece; and

a memory coupled to the processor and the tuner for storing the audio piece.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content of the associated audio piece

36. The system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include music.

37. The system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include voice.

38. The system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include advertisements.

39. The system of claim 34, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme,

the system further comprising a third input for receiving a user selection for the particular theme.

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40. A system for transmitting a customized audio program comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of audio pieces;

a first database coupled to the means for receiving for storing the received plurality of audio pieces;

a first processor processing audio signals of an audio piece in the first database for compiling audio characteristic information including acoustic information associated with the audio piece;

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a second database coupled to the first processor for storing the audio characteristic information;

an input for receiving user audio preference information;

a second processor coupled to the first database, the

20 second database, and the input, the second processor comparing the user audio preference information with the audio characteristic information and selecting the audio piece based on the comparison; and

a network connection coupled to the second processor for

25 transmitting the selected audio piece to a user station over a computer network.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content of

30 the associated audio piece.

42. The system of claim 40, wherein the audio piece includes music.

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43. The system of claim 40, wherein the audio piece
5   includes voice.

44. The system of claim 40, wherein the audio piece
includes an advertisement.

45. The system of claim 40, wherein the user audio
preference information is associated with a particular theme,
and the input further receives a user selection for the
particular theme.

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